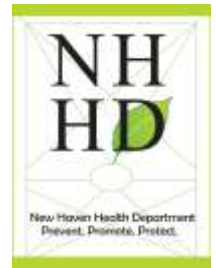


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Testimony Appropriations Committee
Brooke Logan, Health Programs Director, New Haven Health Department
6 March 2015

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the committee. My name is Brooke Logan and I'm the Health Programs Director for the City of New Haven Health Department. The New Haven Health Department is opposed to funding cuts in the AIDS Service line of the DPH budget.

Over the last 10 years, the number of people **living with HIV/AIDS has increased by 15% to 10,637** but funding during that same time has not. The proposed 5% rescission to syringe exchange programs will return us to 2001 funding levels, and fall even shorter in preventing HIV infection rates.

Specifically, I am writing to urge you to restore the 5% rescissions that the governor issued to the SEPs. In the last round of rescissions, DPH was forced DPH go from funding 5 SEPS, leaving us with just 3 funded programs. These programs are the foundational frontline of HIV prevention and losing any more ground at all is a poor decision and simply bad public health policy.

As the first state to statutorily create syringe exchange programs, we have been looked to as a leader. We know that this is an incredibly cost effective, evidenced based HIV intervention. The data tells us that, over the past decade, newly reported cases of HIV in injecting drugs users has dropped by 30%. Specifically, In New Haven, the rate of new infections among injection drug users has dropped from 48.1% of new diagnosis in 2002 to only 5.7% of new diagnoses in 2013. We simply cannot afford to return to the past.

If the rescissions aren't restored, we will find ourselves on the precipice of a new wave of the disaster we experience in the 80s and 90s. These programs are evidence based and scientifically proven to work and be cost effective.

I call on all of you to restore these cuts to ensure that people with HIV/AIDS, families, poor people, the elderly and those with disabilities – aren't the ones on whose backs the budget is balanced.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

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